

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 IO-13 OIC-02 CU-02 PC-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5983

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 1535

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PROG, HU

SUBJ: HUNGARIAN PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
VOLUNTEER SERVICE

REF: STATE 111223

1. EMBASSY HAS REVIEWED ITS BIOGRAPHIC FILES FOR INFORMATION ON HUNGARIANS NOMINATED TO ATTEND JUNE 27-JULY 2 VOLUNTEER SERVICE CONFERENCE IN VIENNA. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON ZSOLT SAJTI OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF HUNGARIAN WORKCAMP OR ON KOSTA IVANOV OF SERVICE INTERNATIONAL VOLONTAIRE POUR LA SOLIDARITE ET L'AMITIE DE LA JEUNESSE.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT SAJTI'S ORGANIZATION IS PART OF WORLD FEDERATION OF HUNGARIANS, WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO POLITICALLY INFLUENCE FOREIGN BORN YOUTH OF HUNGARIAN EXTRACTION THROUGH SUMMER CAMP ACTIVITIES. IVANOV IS NOT HUNGARIAN BUT BULGARIAN (OR MACEDONIAN) AND IS PROBABLY ASSOCIATED WITH WORLD FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH (WFDY), HEADQUARTERED IN BUDAPEST.

3. DR. JOZSEF BOGNAR OF INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IS WELL KNOWN TO EMBASSY AS HIGHLY RESPECTED ECONOMIST, SPECIALIZING IN DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS OF LDC'S. HE WAS MAYOR OF BUDAPEST AND MINISTER OF INTERNAL TRADE
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IN LATE 1940'S. FROM 1961-69 HE HEADED INSTITUTE FOR

CULTURAL RELATIONS; HE WAS ALSO AT SAME TIME DIRECTOR OF HUNGARIAN ACADEMY'S CENTER FOR AFRO-ASIAN RESEARCH. IN EARLY 1960'S BOGNAR BECAME ADVISOR TO GOVERNMENT OF GHANA. AT PRESENT HE IS PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR WORLD ECONOMICS. HIS PRIME INTEREST IS DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS, ALTHOUGH HIS ADVICE ON DOMESTIC AFFAIRS IS SOUGHT AFTER BY GOH. BOGNAR IS MORE OPEN TO IDEAS THAN MOST HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS AND WE BELIEVE THAT HE WOULD BE GOOD CANDIDATE FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICES CONFERENCE.

4. VOLUNTEER SERVICES IN HUNGARY ARE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE IN WEST. MOST OPERATE WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF PEOPLE'S PATRIOTIC FRONT OR OTHER MASS ORGANIZATION AND ARE CLOSELY SUPERVISED BY PARTY LEADERS. VOLUNTEER SERVICES AT BEST ARE ONLY PARTIALLY "VOLUNTEER" SINCE INDIVIDUALS IN MASS ORGANIZATIONS ARE MOBILIZED UNDER CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PRESSURE TO (A) PROVIDE FREE LABOR TO INDUSTRY OR (B) TO INSURE THAT PARTY AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES ARE STRICTLY CARRIED OUT.

5. EMBASSY DOES NOT WISH TO RECOMMEND ANY OTHER HUNGARIANS TO ATTEND CONFERENCE.
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